

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney

Eastern District of Pennsylvania

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*****PRESS CONFERENCE ADVISORY FOR WEDNESDAY,
OCTOBER 8, 2003*****

**U.S. ATTORNEY PATRICK MEEHAN AND COUNTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEYS TO ANNOUNCE KICK-OFF OF *PROJECT SAFE
NEIGHBORHOODS* TV AD CAMPAIGN IN NORTHAMPTON,
LEHIGH, BERKS, AND LANCASTER COUNTIES**

**Campaign Against Gun Crime Will Include :30 TV Commercial Featuring Meehan,
Local DAs, And Well-Known Defense Attorney Johnny Cochran – Ad Will Be
Played At Press Conferences And BETA Copies Will Be Available**

PHILADELPHIA – *Project Safe Neighborhoods* is a Department of Justice initiative designed to identify and prosecute firearms offenders in federal court, where the defendants are likely to receive a substantial sentence upon conviction. Since September 2001 through last month, the United States Attorney's Office, local district attorney's offices, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other federal, state, and local agencies, have worked together to indict 599 defendants who have received an average prison sentence of almost nine years.

"The bottom line is this program is helping improve the quality of life in our communities," said Meehan. "These violent offenders have used the gun as their tool of intimidation. But because of *Project Safe Neighborhoods*, we're now able to use that same gun to remove those violent criminals from our streets."

The campaign will deliver a simple message to convicted felons: if you have prior convictions, get caught with a gun and your case is taken federally, you will likely face years in a federal prison. The television commercial featuring Meehan, Cochran, and the county district attorneys began airing October 1.

PRESS EVENT SCHEDULE

10:30 a.m. – Press conference with U.S. Attorney Meehan, Northampton County District Attorney John Morganelli and Lehigh County District Attorney Jim Martin. Lehigh County District Attorney's Office, 455 W. Hamilton Street, Allentown, Pa.

1:00 p.m. – Press conference with U.S. Attorney and Berks County District Attorney Mark Baldwin. Berks County District Attorney's Office, 633 Court Street, 5th Floor, Reading, Pa.

2:30 p.m. – Press Conference with U.S. Attorney and Lancaster County District Attorney Don Totaro. Lancaster County District Attorney's Office, 50 N. Duke St., Lancaster, Pa.